

REMARKS

The claims and abstract have been amended to remove the reference numerals listed therein. Claims 1, 4 and 7 are pending in this application. Claims 2-3 and 5-6 have been canceled.

Conclusion

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

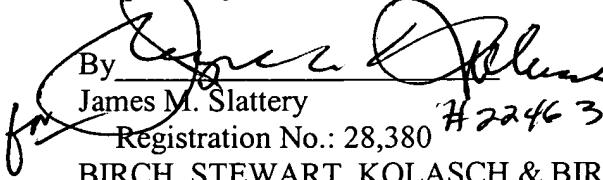
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact James M. Slattery (Reg. No. 28,380) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: November 10, 2004

JMS/smt

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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